



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

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MINUTES

OF THE

NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

August 15, 2024
University Center
Gaylord, MI

1. **Call to Order**

The Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) Board of Directors meeting was called to order by D. Post, Board Vice President, at 10:10 a.m., a quorum was declared.

2. **Roll Call**

Board Members Present

In Person: Terry Small, Laurie Jamison, Jackie Bondar, Mary Anne Heidemann, Jessica Topp, Lindsey Meisner, Ted Fines, Kelli Stockwell, Travis Hewitt, Dave Post, and Danny Mitchell

Virtual: Dan Ludlow

Staff Present: Doug Baum, Theresa Huff, Chelea Goodwin, Denise Cline, Chris Whelan, and Melissa Chambers

Public Present: None.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

D. Mitchell moved, seconded by J. Bondar to approve the agenda as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

D. Post presented the Minutes of the May 16, 2024, and June 20, 2024, meetings. D. Mitchell moved, seconded by T. Small, to approve both the minutes as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

5. **Financial Report**

C. Goodwin briefly reviewed the financials for the period of 6/1/24-7/31/24, as presented. Nothing extraordinary. Will have year-end budget adjustments next month. Working with BS&A, go live on 9/10/24, if all goes well. Next month's reports will look different. NEMCOG Follows the state fiscal year, October through September. We have about 2 months remaining in the current fiscal year. K. Stockwell moved to receive and file as presented the 6/1/24-7/31/24 financial statements, seconded by T. Fines. Yes all, motion passed.

6. **Special Presentation:** Chris Whelan/NEMCOG, Drone Projects and Services

A handout for Statewide Site Readiness Program (SSRP) was provided. C. Whelan gave a power point presentation to briefly explained what "SSRP" is. How we will execute the project and what we will accomplish. He provided a

video exhibiting the NEMCOG drone that was purchased for this project and how it can be utilized for this project and future projects. The deadline to submit the SSRP application for the Bronze, Silver and Gold classification is December 31, 2024. A Part 1 FAA license is required to fly the drone and must look for flight restrictions prior to taking off. D. Baum state there are some privacy concerns if flying over private properties and are still being sorted out. We will develop language for the grant. The Regional SSRP Plan was sent for review; the review period ended yesterday. M. Chambers and C. Whelan collecting data. Will be done in phases. Phase one will be to focus on industrial properties. Phase two look at large commercial sites. Phase three will be small commercial properties. If time and funds allow, towards the end of project, will focus on smaller commercial properties. We have been discussing how we can use the drone work in our programs, recreation plans, MDNR and MDOT projects. The drone is available to our members, law enforcement, fire departments, etc. If there is a need, we may be able to assist. The community should contact D. Baum to make arrangements. The drone can only be flown by our NEMCOG pilot for any requests of services of the drone.

7. President's Report

- A. **Regional Project Review – August 2024:** R. Pallarito stated there is/are (1) Federal Grant project; (0) State projects, (0) other projects and (1) public notice projects for regional review.
- B. **Other:** None.

8. Appointments

- A. Appointments to the Board – 1 Township Vacancy
The Nominating Committee recommends to the board to approve Dan Hibner, Wilson Township Supervisor (Alpena County) to fill the Township Vacancy Position. D. Mitchell moved, seconded by K. Stockwell. Yes all, motion passed.
- B. **Other:** none.

9. Director's/Staff Report

D. Baum briefly reviewed his “Directors Report” handout that was provided to the board. We continue to be very busy.

N. Tucker: Materials Management: Four counties are doing single county plans. Cheboygan, Crawford, Otsego, and Presque Isle. NEMCOG is serving as the DPA for each of them and will be preparing their materials management plans. Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Iosco have joined together to do a 5-county plan. Alpena County is serving as their DPA and has contracted RRS to prepare the materials management plan. All counties have submitted their Notice of Intent part. Due to EGLE by November, late December. Then will be eligible for the \$60,000 funding.

D. Cline: It was discussed on 7/15/24, to phase out “Heritage Route”, replacing that name and our logo. The new name will be “Sunrise Coast.” Hasn't been voted on yet.
Discover Tour – restarting that again. Have a lot of interest. Will start next year. Will be with Legislative Tour.

10. Committee Report's

- A. Finance Committee – none.
- B. Executive Committee: Met today. Covered the updated Employee Handbook to review for vote at the next board meeting in September. T. Hewitt agreed the handbook is impressive.
- C. **Other:** None.

11. Previous Business: none.

12. New Business

- Starting grant system. Writing many grants.
- Many through the state.
- Staff, L. Damer is going to part-time from full-time. Will focus on part-time basis.
- Intern (seasonal) – goes back to school next week.

- T. Carroll – school is starting back up and will be returning to her full-time job but will continue to do some part-time work.
- We're in need of an Economic Development person. Work with EDA to get more funding for that to assist our communities in need.

County/Member Updates

Alcona Co.: The new Veterans Building is open. The Senior Citizens building, and D. Cline made it in the paper.

City of Alpena: Glass bottom boat, a new catamaran is out there too. Launched 28 kayaks. The number of tour ship tours increased greatly this year. The DDA expanded working on façade projects. There is 1 residential applicant. The Culligan Plaza project has been delayed by the state. The Brown Trout Festival went well.

City of Onaway: Received the MSHDA Grant thanks to D. Cline and H. Runyan. 3.5 years later, received \$749,000 for trail head spark grant. Water Asset Management Plan is almost done and is due in October. Monday, the DPW is cleaning out the storm water.

Crawford Co.: Canoe race at the end of July is done. 9/7, Saturday at 1:00 p.m. Fred Bear statue in City Park being dedicated. Emergency services; small speech. Replay RDM controls lake Margareet. The National Guard still looking for help. Renewals on ballot all passed. Alger Apartment are getting full. Expanding Industrial Drive; was just approved. Will allow additional development. Spark grant received and will add pickleball court. Remodeling the old 911 building. Will have cat scan/asst. medicine examiner space.

Habitat of NE MI: Conference celebrating 35 years. It will be held at JJ's Steak and Pizza in Alpena. First prize raffle is \$1,500. Been busy in Hillman and Alpena. Conversations with Rogers City on housing needs in NE MI. Have 48 families, couples, and individuals in financial counseling looking for housing. Finishing a house in Hillman. Breaking ground on 2 more houses in the next few weeks. May soon be building modular homes in Alpena.

MI Works!: Also sees housing, childcare and transportation needs and has some funding to assist with that. Can also help with auto repairs, daycare expenses, update resumes, get and retain employment. School is going back soon. Youth 14-24; inform them of Talent Tours and see that there are good jobs in the region. MI Works! celebrating 50 years! At the next meeting will share open house information.

Oscoda Co.: New VA clinic is making progress. New Sheriffs building it moving along but has had some delays due to supply issues. District 5 County Commissioner, the person won the election for County Clerk, leaving a vacancy. Have some write-ins. Need to file by October 25 for write-in. New Sheriff Elec was sworn in the other day. There may be a write-in for that too.

Presque Isle Co.: Hosting a solar event; they're putting up cells already. Have complaint resolution process in place. They go directly to DTE. It's a requirement; not a public service requirement. Applied for grant 4 months ago, speedy process; but haven't heard anything. County invited to go before NRTF yesterday. The grant request went well. 9 different communities were invited; met in Traverse City. Getting pretty far on employee contracts. Had to increase employee wages. Changed retirement to Defined Contribution. Now have it for all groups. It will also save the county a lot of funds. Trying to get a roof on the courthouse, using some ARPA funds.

Region 7 Health Care Coalition: Working on new budget for 10/1. Training events meeting will be in a couple of weeks.

D. Cline: Short term rentals: have been assisting a lot of people. No one puts anything in their plans to limit the number of them.

Village of Hillman: Finishing State Land Bank project. A Habitat house is being built more to come. Emerick Park is getting new equipment. Water wells by end of the month. EGLE Hillman Brownfield Project – tearing down an old building, replacing with a new bakery. Summer bands have done well. Water stuff by October 16th.

Reminder: The NEMCOG Annual Meeting is Friday, October 11th at the Garland Resort in Lewiston. Will be sending out the Save-the-Date info. soon.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be September 19, 2024. We really need to have a quorum so we can approve the new FY25 Budget and Handbook.

D. Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting, M. Heidemann seconded. Yes all, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.